

V. REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Muir et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0192090). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Muir teaches a gaming machine display that includes a game playing arrangement mountable in a cabinet of a gaming machine and an electronically controlled display element overlying the game playing arrangement, in use, so that, depending on a state of the display element, the game playing arrangement is visible through the display element. The game playing arrangement has a mechanical, symbol-carrying arrangement. The symbol-carrying arrangement includes a set of rotatable mechanical reels with a plurality of symbols being arranged on an outer periphery of each reel. The display element has a display screen overlying the game playing arrangement. The display screen is a multi-layered structure and includes a monitor on which images are to be displayed. The monitor overlies a shutter mechanism.

The courts have required for §102 anticipation that a single reference teach (i.e., identically describe) each and every element or step of the rejected claim or else the reference falls under §103. Atlas Powder v. E. I. du Pont, 750 F.2d 1569, 224 USPQ 409 (Fed. Cir. 1984), Jamesbury Corp. v. Litton Industrial Products, 756 F.2d 1556, 22 5 USPQ 253 (Fed. Cir. 1985).

Claim 1 is directed to a gaming machine that includes game result display means for displaying a game result thereon with the game result including a plurality of game result symbols and beneficial state generating means for generating a beneficial state for a player when a predetermined game result is displayed on the game result display means. Claim 1 recites that the game result display means includes first display means and second display means arranged in front of a display area of the first display means when seen from a front side of the gaming machine

and the second display means conducts a demonstration display in which a background thereof is displayed in a dark color so that the game result on the first display means is difficult to be seen and light transmitting symbols are variably displayed in the background, after the game result is displayed on the first display means. Further, claim 1 recites that at least one light transmitting symbol includes a light transmittable portion and variably moves about the second display means. Claim 1 further recites that a part of at least one game result symbol on the first display means is seen only through the light transmittable portion of the at least one light transmitting symbol when the light transmittable portion of the at least one light transmitting symbol variably moving about the second display means overlies the at least one game result symbol.

Claim 6 is directed to a gaming machine that includes game result display means for displaying a game result thereon with the game result including a plurality of game result symbols and beneficial state generating means for generating a beneficial state for a player when a predetermined game result is displayed on the game result display means. Claim 6 recites that the game result display means includes first display means and second display means arranged in front of a display area of the first display means when seen from a front side of the gaming machine and the second display means conducts demonstration display in which a background thereof is displayed in dark color so that the game result on the first display means is not seen and light transmitting symbols are variably displayed in the background, after the game result is displayed on the first display means. Additionally, claim 6 recites that at least one light transmitting symbol includes a light transmittable portion and variably moves about the second display means. Claim 6 further recites that a part of the at least one game result symbol on the first display means is seen only through the light transmittable portion of the at least one light transmitting symbol when the light transmittable portion of the at least one light transmitting symbol variably moving about the second display means overlies the at least one game result symbol.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper because the applied art fails to teach each and every element of claims 1 and 6. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach at least one light transmitting symbol that includes a light transmittable portion and variably moves about the second display means. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art also fails to teach that a part of at least one game result symbol on the first display means is seen only through the light transmittable portion of the at least one light transmitting symbol when the light transmittable portion of the at least one light transmitting symbol variably moving about the second display means overlies the at least one game result symbol. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 6 are allowable over the applied art.

By contrast, the applied art states in paragraph [0051]:

In use, when a predetermined trigger condition occurs, at least one image 52 is displayed on the LCD 50. The image 52 may be related to the underlying base game which uses the symbol carrying arrangement 16. For example, as shown in FIGS. 6 and 7 of the drawings, when a particular trigger condition occurs in the base game, a "wild card" symbol 54 is displayed on the LCD 50, overlying one of the symbol positions on one of the reels 18. When the reels 18 stop spinning, the symbol 54 substitutes for the underlying symbol on the relevant reel 18. In the example shown in FIG. 6 of the drawings, the symbol 54 is transparent so that the underlying reel symbol is visible through the symbol 54. In the example shown in FIG. 7 of the drawings, the symbol 54 is opaque so that the underlying reel symbol position is covered and is hidden by the symbol 54 on the LCD 50. It will be appreciated that the above-described example could apply to a base game and/or to a special feature game.

By comparison, the claimed invention recites that at least one light transmitting symbol includes a light transmittable portion while the applied art teaches that the

symbol 54 is either transparent so that the underlying symbol can be seen therethrough or opaque so that the underlying symbol is hidden from view. Also, the claimed invention recites that the at least one light transmitting symbol variably moves about the second display means while the applied art fails to teach that that the symbol 54 moves. Furthermore, the claimed invention recites that a part of at least one game result symbol on the first display means is seen only through the light transmittable portion of the at least one light transmitting symbol while the applied art teaches that the symbol 54 is either transparent so that the underlying symbol can be seen therethrough or opaque so that the underlying symbol is hidden from view. Additionally, the claimed invention recites that a part of at least one game result symbol on the first display means is seen only through the light transmittable portion of the at least one light transmitting symbol when the light transmittable portion of the at least one light transmitting symbol variably moving about the second display means overlies the at least one game result symbol while, as mentioned above, there is no teaching in the applied art that the symbol 54 moves over the underlying symbol. Since there is no teaching in the applied art that the symbol 54 moves over the underlying symbol, it is not possible that a part of the of at least one game result symbol on the first display means is seen only through the light transmittable portion of the at least one light transmitting symbol when the light transmittable portion of the at least one light transmitting symbol variably moving about the second display means overlies the at least one game result symbol.

Claims 2-5 depend from claim 1 and includes all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

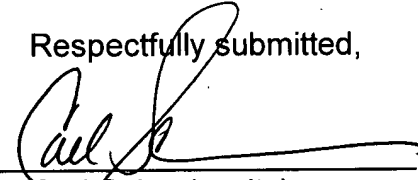
It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are believed to be in condition for allowance over the prior art of record. Therefore, this Amendment is believed to be a complete response to the outstanding Office Action. Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why

the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to set forth further arguments and remarks supporting the patentability of their claims, including the separate patentability of the dependent claims not explicitly addressed herein, in future papers.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

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Respectfully submitted,

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